

slab

installation guide



Congratulations on purchasing the finest concrete slab system available. Ideal for any landscape setting, Barkman slabs have been designed to provide you with years of trouble free service and enjoyment. Handsome and extremely durable, they offer a number of important advantages over conventional concrete or asphalt. These include:

- High resistance to salt corrosion and the weathering effects of the sun, rain and ice.
- An ability to flex during frost heave without becoming damaged.
- Easier installation and repair (thanks to the use of individual slabs).
- Easier removal (when gaining access to underground services).
- Safer because their rough surfaces make them slip and skid resistant.
- Greater design possibilities thanks to the wide variety of styles, shapes and colors available.
- More environmentally-friendly because they can be reused and reset.

Step-by-Step Installation

The directions in this guide are for the installation of a typical Barkman patio or sidewalk. Before you start, it is important to have your project fully designed on paper. If you require assistance with creating your design, or have any questions regarding installation, please consult your knowledgeable Barkman dealer or contractor.

Note: Slabs are recommended for pedestrian traffic only. For driveways, see your Barkman dealer or contractor and ask about our extensive line of concrete pavers.

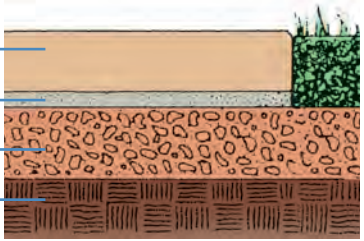
Equipment Needed

- An 8' to 10' long 2x4 board for screeding
- Two 10' long, 1" diameter sand screeding guides (example: water pipe, electrical conduit, wood strips, etc.)
- Standard carpenter's level, gloves, knee pads, trowel, rake, shovels, wheelbarrow, broom, a rubber mallet, tape measure and safety glasses
- Wooden stakes or metal pegs
- Plate compactor (3 HP to 5 HP) and hand tamper
- Concrete saw with a diamond blade (available at rental stores)
- Spray paint, string, string level and a carpenter's pencil

construction details

Typical Cross Section

- Slab (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")
- Bedding Course (1")
- Course Granular Base (4"-6")
- Existing Subgrade



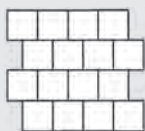
Excavation Depth Estimation

	depth
slabs	1¾"
sand	1"
gravel base (compacted)	3" – 4"
total excavation depth	5¾" – 6¾"

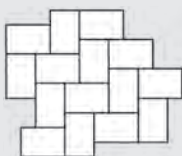
Base Material Estimation

granular base				
square footage of slabs	X	$\left(\frac{\text{depth of base}}{12} \right)$	÷ 27 =	cubic yards of base needed
bedding sand				1" depth
square footage of slabs	X	.0031	=	cubic yards of sand needed

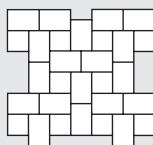
Lexington and Brookside Pattern Layouts



Pieces/100 sq. ft.:
58 (15.75" x 15.75")

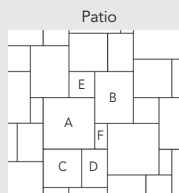


Pieces/100 sq. ft.:
39 (15.75" x 23.62")



Pieces/100 sq. ft.:
14 (15.75" x 15.75")
29 (15.75" x 23.62")

Dimensional Flagstone Pattern Layouts



Patio

A 24" x 24"

B 18" x 24"

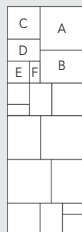
C 18" x 18"

D 12" x 18"

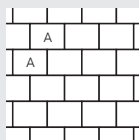
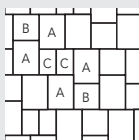
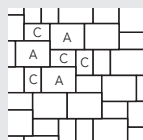
E 12" x 12"

F 12" x 6"

Walkway



Travertine Pattern Layouts

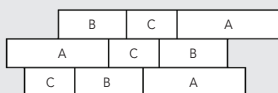


A 24" x 18"

B 18" x 18"

C 18" x 12"

Bridgewood Pattern Layout



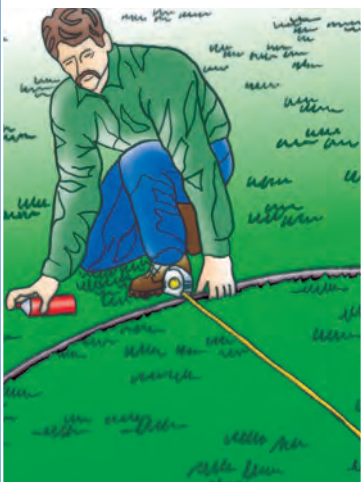
A 35" x 10"

B 23" x 10"

C 17" x 10"

Bridgewood should incorporate a 1/8" to 1/4" gap between each plank.

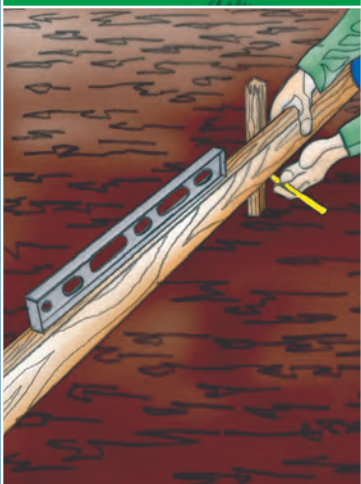
Note: For a complete range of shapes and pattern ideas, check our Specification Guide at barkmanconcrete.com



1

Create Outline

The first step is to take your completed design and transfer it onto the ground where you will be installing your patio. You can use spray paint to mark the outline, using a garden hose for guidance on the curved areas and long boards for the straight areas.



2

Set Elevations

Next, use a 2x4, stakes and a level to set the slope of your patio (a slope of approximately 1" to every 8' is usually ideal). Now, set your stakes and string lines to mark the top of finished patio. Please refer to the Depth Estimation Chart.



3

Excavate

Using your grid work of stakes and guide strings, excavate material below the string lines to the depth needed. To determine depth, refer to the chart (at left). Note: Before any digging, contact your local utility companies for the location and depth of pipes, cables and conduits.



4

Spread Granular Base

You are now ready to spread and compact the coarse granular base. Please refer to the Base Material Estimation Chart to estimate the base material you will require.



5

Compact Base

The granular base should be leveled and compacted (use a plate compactor) in layers of not more than 4". Wet, but do not soak the gravel base while compacting. Level the base to approximately 2½" below the desired surface level. Make sure the base is level and conforms to the shape and elevation of the finished job by measuring down from the string lines you have established on the stakes.



6

Spread Bedding Sand

Begin screeding (spreading) a 1" layer of large grained sand (such as concrete sand). Lay your screed guides (1" pipe, electrical conduit or wood strips) onto compacted base. Set the proper height of these guides by pulling a string across the area to be paved at the finished grade level. The top of screed guides should be 1½" down from the string. Pack sand around the guides to set them in place. Fill with sand and slide the 8' to 10' screed board along the guides to smooth and level. Once complete, pull out the screed guides and fill any voids with sand using a trowel or small board. Do not walk on or work from the screeded sand.



7

Lay Slabs

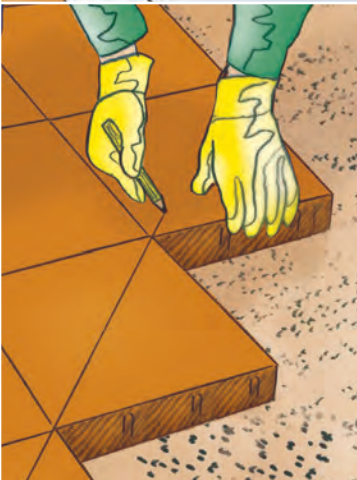
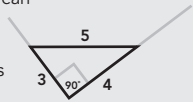
After screeding the sand you can begin laying your slabs, using the area's straightest edge as your starting point. Pick a starting point where you can make the slabs fit against the longest straight edge or the longest combination of straight edges as long as they are at right angles to each other. If Bridgewood is being installed, incorporate a 1/8" to 1/4" gap between each plank.



8

Keep Slabs Square

To keep the slabs straight and square as you work, use a string line running in both directions as your guide. This is easily done by measuring out lines in multiples of 3, 4 and 5 with the line marked "three" remaining stationary during the squaring process (see diagram). Line "four" should be moved until "four" and "five" intersect, causing a right angle in the "three-four" corner. If your slabs start to get off square, you can get them into proper position by gently tapping them towards the string line.



9

To Cut Slabs

Using a concrete saw, cut each slab separately – marking it, removing it, cutting it and placing it – before proceeding to the next one. Always use safety glasses when cutting slabs.

WARNING:

DO NOT TAMP OR RUN A PLATE COMPACTOR OVER SLABS. SLABS WILL BREAK.

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Caution: Before any digging, always consult your local utility companies for the location and depth of pipes, cables and conduits. Dry sawing or grinding of concrete products may result in the release of respirable crystalline quartz. Prolonged exposure to respirable crystalline quartz may cause delayed (chronic) lung injury (silicosis). The use of a NIOSH-approved respirator and tight fitting goggles is recommended when sawing or grinding operations are in progress.

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